

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AEC-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 CIEP-01

COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01 H-01 INR-05 INT-05 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-03 RSC-01 SAM-01 OES-03

SP-02 SS-15 STR-01 TRSE-00 FRB-01 PA-01 USIA-06

PRS-01 FEA-01 /086 W

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R 291954Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5826

INFO AMCONSUL CALI

AMCONSUL MEDELLIN

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E O 11652 NA

TAGS EFIN CO

SUBJ: SHORTAGE IN PETROLEUM PRODUCTS

REF BOGOTA 10508

1) SUPPLY OF MOTOR GASOLINE AND OTHER REFINED PRODUCTS TO BOGOTA HAS BEEN RENEWED AND DISTRIBUTION BEING MADE TO CONSUMERS. SHORT SUPPLY CONTINUES, HOWEVER, FOR MOST PRODUCTS AS RESULT OF SLIGHTLY LESS THAN NORMAL SUPPLY AND PENT-UP DEMAND. SOME HOARDING ALSO APPEARS LIKELY. LONG LINES CONTINUE AT SERVICE STATIONS. AVIATION FUEL HAS BEEN RATIONED AT EL DORADO AIRPORT, BUT NO FREQUENCY REDUCTIONS ARE EXPECTED. LPG AND WHITE GASOLINE, WHICH ARE USED PCMARILY FOR COOKING, ARE STILL IN VERY SHORT SUPPLY.

2) WHILE MOST OF PRESENT SUPPLY CRISIS SHOULD BE OVERCOME BY BEGINNING OF NEXT WEEK, EMB AND INDUSTRY EXPECT SUPPLY PROBLEM TO RECUR ON SPORADIC BASIS DURING FORESEEABLE FUTURE. GIVEN LIMITED
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STORAGE CAPACITY, REDUCTION OF CRUDE SUPPLY TO REFINERY, AND

POSSIBLE IMPORT BOTTLENECKS, COLOMBIA HAS NOW ENTERED A PERIOD IN WHICH IT IS QUITE SUSCEPTIBLE TO PERIODIC SHORTAGES.

3) MINMINES NEVERTHELESS APPEARS DETERMINED TO PRESENT OPTIMISTIC OUTLOOK RE PETROLEUM SITUATION. HE ANNOUNCED ON NOV 28 LARGE DISCOVERY OF NATURAL GAS OFF THE NORTHERN COAST NEAR CARTAGENA AND IN THE OPON AREA OF THE MID MAGDALENA VALLEY. UNFORTUNATELY, THERE IS NO SUBSTANCE TO EITHER. TEXACO HAS PLANS FOR SEISMIC WORK OFF THE CARTAGENA COAST BUT EVEN IF THE RESULTS INDICATE A FAVORABLE FORMATION, DRILLING WOULD NOT BEGIN FOR AT LEAST A YEAR. WEBB HAS ENCOUNTERED GAS POCKETS KNOWN TO EXIST IN OPON, BUT THESE ARE NOT COMMERCIAL AND ONLY REPRESENT A SEVERE OBSTACLE TO DRILLING. THE LOPEZ ADMIN THUS MAY BE DEVELOPING A CREDIBILITY GAP ON THE PETROLEUM ISSUE AS THE PUBLIC BEGINS TO SUSPECT THE EXISTENCE OF PROBLEMS WHICH ADMIN ATTEMPTS TO PLAY DOWN. WHITE

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Message Attributes

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30 JUN 2005

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Type: TE
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